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Action 8: Investigate options to modify the weir

5 days ago

CLOSED: This discussion has concluded.

Our study is considering options for future management of the Pearl Beach Lagoon weir. The weir in the lagoon entrance channel was installed around 1990. It stops the Lagoon from completely emptying when it is opened to the ocean (draining across the beach). The issues surrounding the weir are complicated and we'd like to further understand the community's desires and preferences relating to future management.



For discussion

1. Would you prefer that the weir remain or be removed? Why?
2. If you think the weir should stay but perhaps be modified in some way, how would you like the structure to be changed?



8 comments

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Bruce (Diamond), 6 days ago

It needs to be appreciated that the weir is an important part of how the lagoon currently operates. Changing it would potentially benefit some flora and fauna plus community amenity but would also adversely affect others. The weir was installed for a reason and as far as I can tell it is in large part achieving its aim. The weir is, however, not a dam in that water would still be percolating through the sandy ground eventually to the ocean. It slows down the flow but does not prevent it and so the lagoon still fluctuates in level depending on the inflow and also evaporation. The argument that it enhances siltation probably has merit but we suspect that as the lagoon's environment is largely fully developed the sediment load entering the lagoon would be far less than in previous times. Please also refer to our comments against Action 4 – Stormwater Quality Measures. We strongly consider that the weir should remain but a sluice gate might be feasible as an addition. The question then would be how is its operation to be managed – opened by whom and under what circumstances? The general impounding of the water should continue but with rare and determined opening of the sluice only on very rare occasions under definite pre-determined conditions. To this would need to be added the management of the opening of a channel through to the sea under specific circumstances.

VnM, 13 days ago

I am emphatic that the weir (in some form) needs to be retained. Over the years the lagoon has dried out on a number of occasions. Without the weir the lagoon would dry out every year. Long told stories tell of the children riding their bikes on the dried out the lagoon. We understand that the weir is held responsible for some silting, by not flushing the storms out. A weir with an opening system like a slew gate would be one suggestion.

Taras - Coral Crescent, 17 days ago

The weir has significantly affected and changed the nature of the lagoon and its operation. Therefore, it should be removed/modified as a matter of course. Many of the problems the lagoon suffers from are directly related to the weir with the most significant of these being that sediment that enters the lagoon cannot exit as the weir prevents this. It is my view the weir should either be removed or modified such that it can be lifted during high rain/level events and when the sandbar is cleared, sediment can be released along with impounded water.

JH, 22 days ago

As well as the lagoon the creek that runs between Pearl Beach Drive and Emerald Avenue should be cleaned, cleared and remediated. A lot of the time it is just a series of mosquito breeding stagnant pools. More Pearl

Beach residents are affected by this creek than the lagoon.

TimW, 24 days ago

The weir should remain so there is a persistent lagoon - birdlife disappeared when the lagoon dried up last summer, something I would not like to see regularly.

Future of Lagoon., 28 days ago

Fill the lagoon in , replace with Native garden park .

Joan, 30 days ago

The weir was constructed around 1990 to prevent the lagoon from drying out, prior to which there were concerns about odours and the loss of bird habitat. Unfortunately, this has not prevented the lagoon from drying out or odours or loss of bird habitat. Page 78 of Pearl Beach Lagoon Condition Study and Community Uses Report shows photos I supplied of the condition of the lagoon when it dried up, many birds died, and pink algae was present. Several baby Moorhens died when they got stuck in the silt. Page 30 in the Lagoon Condition Study and Community Uses Report shows a photo I supplied of white sand at the edge of the lagoon in Dec 1979 before the weir was created. I have other similar photos. The removal of the weir would allow the sea to come in and out as has happened in the past and prevent further silting of the lagoon. The current level of silt means that flooding occurs more regularly from heavy rain than otherwise would if the water could to escape to the sea.

Athol, 30 days ago

Keep a weir but one with a gate. Develop decision rules for berm cutting as the sea will always come on a combined high tide and high swell. Raising the weir would have a very problematic outcome. Incoming sea water could very well spill into the corner property if the pressure and velocity were enough.

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